

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method of facilitating the purchase and viewing of electronic content comprising:

storing, on a first computing device located at a network address, a list of web sites which distribute digital content items; and

providing a set of computer-executable instructions to a plurality of second computing devices, said set of computer-executable instructions including instructions to perform acts comprising:

rendering said digital content items; ~~and~~

retrieving said list from said first computing device, said network address being included within said set of computer-executable instructions; and

limiting the set of web sites on said list to web sites that vend or distribute content that is renderable by said set of computer-executable instructions, and for which an first operator of said web site has met terms of an offer to be included in said list made by a second operator of said list.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing data indicative of said network address to said plurality of second computing devices.

3 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said digital content items comprise text.

4 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said digital content items comprise audio.

5 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said digital content item comprise video.

6 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said digital content item comprises software.

7 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said storing act comprises:

for each of said web sites, storing:

a universal record locator;
one or more items of text; and
a graphical image.

8 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~limiting the set of web sites on said list to web sites that vend or distribute
content that is renderable by said set of computer-executable instructions wherein said offer~~
comprises an offer to sell space on said list to said first operator.

9 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing, to a one of said plurality of second computing devices, data
indicative of a one of said web sites.

10 (original). The method of claim 9, further comprising:

providing, to said one of said plurality of second computing devices,
computer-executable instructions which contact said one of said web sites.

11 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein said computer-executable instructions
further include instructions to perform the acts of:

browsing web pages on a computer network;
providing a user interface which integrates said rendering, retrieving, and
browsing acts.

12 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the computer-executable instructions
which perform the act of retrieving said list from said first computing device include
instructions which use a stand-alone web browsing program to retrieve said list.

13 (currently amended). A method of supporting electronic commerce comprising:
storing a directory of web sites, said directory including at least one web site that distributes or vends digital content, contents of said directory being limited based on a criterion that operators of said web sites having met the terms of an offer made by an operator of said directory;

receiving a request from a computing device to add a one of said web sites to a list stored on said computing device, said one of said web sites being a web site that distributes or vends digital content; and

uploading data indicative of said one of said web sites to said computing device for storage in a registry on said computing device.

14 (cancelled).

15 (original). The method of claim 13, wherein said directory of web sites comprises an HTML file which includes said data.

16 (original). The method of claim 15, further comprising:

on said computing device, downloading said HTML file for viewing with a browser, whereupon said browser renders a list of web sites in said directory and one or more clickable buttons; and

clicking one of said buttons as an indication that said web site is to be added.

17 (currently amended). A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to perform a method of supporting electronic commerce, the method comprising:

storing a directory of web sites, said directory including at least one web site that distributes or vends digital content, contents of said directory being limited based on a criterion that operators of said web sites having met the terms of an offer made by an operator of said directory;

receiving a request from a computing device to add a one of said web sites to a list stored on said computing device, said one of said web sites being a web site that distributes or vends digital content; and

uploading data indicative of said one of said web sites to said computing device for storage in a registry on said computing device.

18-24 (cancelled).

25 (currently amended). A method of facilitating electronic commerce comprising:
storing, at a first computing device having a network address, data indicative of commerce sites;
providing to a second computing device:
data indicative of said network address; and
a set of computer-executable instructions which:
contact said first computing device at said network address to obtain at least some of said data indicative of said commerce sites, the set of commerce sites whose indicative data is obtained being limited based on a criterion that operators of said commerce sites have met terms of an offer, made by an operator of said first computing device, to be included among said commerce sites whose indicative data is to be provided, whereby said at least some data is stored on said second computing device in a predetermined location;
engage in communication with a one of the commerce sites whose indicative data is stored in said predetermined location;
exclude contact with sites whose indicative data is not stored on said second computing device in said predetermined location.

26 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein said storing act comprises storing data indicative of web sites that distribute digital content.

27 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein said instructions which engage in communication with a one of said commerce sites include instructions which employ a stand-alone web browsing program to perform communication.

28 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein said network address comprises a universal record locator.

29 (original). The method of claim 25, wherein the data stored on said second computing device in a predetermined location comprises a universal record locator of at least one of said commerce sites.

30 (currently amended). A method of purchasing digital content comprising:
starting a content-rendering program on a first computing device, said first computing device storing an address of a second computing device;
obtaining from said second computing device an address of a third computing device, the address of said third computing device being included in a set of addresses, maintained by said second computing device, of computing devices whose addresses may be provided to said second computing devices, inclusion in said set being based on a condition of a first operator of said third computing device having met terms of an offer for said inclusion that has been made by a second operator of said first computing device to said first operator of said third computing device;
using said content-rendering program to connect to said third device; and
placing an order for digital content with said third computing device.

31 (original). The method of claim 30, further comprising the act of storing the address of said third computing device on said first computing device.

32 (original). The method of claim 30, wherein said act of placing an order comprises placing an order for text.

33 (original). The method of claim 30, further comprising the act of obtaining from said second computing device a description of a web site hosted by said third computing device.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0259/158415.02
Application No.: 09/894,519
Office Action Dated: February 16, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

34 (original). The method of claim 30, further comprising the act of obtaining from said second computing device a logo associated with a web site hosted by said third computing device.

35 (original). The method of claim 30, wherein said act of obtaining an address of said third computing device comprising obtaining a universal record locator.

36 (new). The method of claim 13, wherein said offer comprises an offer to sell space in said directory.